

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – March 21st, 2002

Chair~ Anjanette Martin

Vice Chair~ Stacy Cepello

Discussion Items: March 21st, 2002

- **Activities Updates** – Paul Ward, DFG, announced an upcoming presentation on May 6th to the Butte County Fish & Game Commission that will be directed to the sporting community and public access issues. Cathy Morris, TNC, discussed four properties: (1) 72 acres at RM 243 in Tehama County; they have received a \$245,000 grant award from the Cantara Trustee Council to be used toward the purchase (2) 40 acres in Butte County at RM 194, the seller will continue to farm for at least two more years (3) 20 acres in Glenn County at RM181, is inside the levee and adjacent to DFG and USFWS property and (4) 129 acres in Colusa County at RM148, also in the levee, 55 acres are in walnuts and will continue in production. Stacy reported that DWR has agreed to do the modeling from Woodson Bridge to Keswick for the Comprehensive Study. He will bring that final report to the TAC. Mike Madden, OES, updated the group on activities in Butte County including a recent ballot measure that was passed that will allow the County to form a Resource Conservation District. Anjanette discussed the status of the Sacramento Valley Management Agreement. CALTRANS has purchased a piece of property between Los Molinos and Vina, and within the Conservation Area, for mitigation for bridge work. The property consists of a prune orchard and riparian ground. The prune orchard will eventually be leased or sold.
- **Proposal/Project Mapping** - Stacy provided an example of the proposed website that is in process. The concept is to eventually have one site to come to for information on existing and/or proposed projects. When the website is available, it will link back to the CALFED website; those recommended for funding will be indicated as such. The link should be available within a week or two; the project review format that was adopted by the Board will be used as a base for new information. Stacy asked for direction from the group on project tracking and how to define the area raised by the language “activities that relate to the river”.
- **Handbook Amendments** – Stacy noted that changing the data in the Handbook is an extremely slow process; text and table changes also impact other areas of the Handbook. The changes being worked on now are a result of last year’s amendments. Following discussion, the TAC agreed to move forward to the Board with a recommendation that the Handbook be re-formatted to a word processing document as soon as possible so that the changes can be made in a more timely manner. A question was raised about Board eligibility as a result of the new definition; it does reduce the pool but did not affect the current membership.

(Note: The location for the April 18th TAC meeting has been changed from Willows to Yuba City following the State Water Resources Control Board public workshop to be held earlier that day.)



Discussion Items:

- ❖ **Board Committee Reports** – The Executive Committee discussed the Handbook revisions and the need to have them done as quickly as possible. The SRCA staff is in the process of reformatting the Handbook to a word document to allow for easier editing. The Landowner Assurances Committee met on February 21st and continued discussion on the good neighbor policy draft. Revision 6 is now out for review and feedback from the agencies. PILT/Econ – The group discussed a letter to Secretary Norton from Senator Johannessen concerning the DOA \$45 Mil. cut to the PILT program. RCRC has sent a letter as well; Denny offered to draft a letter of support from the SRCA. The Outreach Committee will move forward with the informational brochure now that there has been action by the Board on the proposed Handbook amendments and name change. The TAC also discussed the Handbook amendment process and the best way to show what revisions have been made in the Handbook as a result of the amendments. Stacy presented an example of the proposed website that will reflect the new and existing projects.
- ❖ **Handbook Amendment** – The Board directed the SRCA staff to notify the Advisory Council and MOA signatories of the intent to change the Handbook and set the amendment review date of June 27th.
- ❖ **Name Change** – Following discussions at the Executive Committee and the Board the name of the nonprofit organization was changed to the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum.
- ❖ **Manager's Report** – The Manager discussed the March 26th Work Group meeting held in Hamilton City; the Ayres report on hydraulic modeling will be presented at the next Board meeting. The Department of Food and Agriculture hosted a discussion, the Working Landscapes Work Group, on the result of meetings held to look at concerns about the efforts to improve habitat on private lands.
- ❖ **Agency Reports** – Sam Lawson, TNC, gave an overview of four projects that had also been discussed at the TAC. The SRCA staff will draft a letter to the California Department of Food and Agriculture asking for their appointment to the Advisory Council now that they have signed the MOA. It was suggested that the Agency reporting should follow the Consent Calendar on the agenda to be sure there is sufficient time for the reports. The Ayres Two Dimensional Hydraulic report for the Hamilton City area will be presented at the next Board meeting.

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Future TAC/SRCA Board and Committee Meetings:

The next TAC meeting will on April 18th, 2:00 to 4:00, Veterans Memorial Center, 1425 Veterans Memorial Circle, Yuba City. From Hwy 99, take Hwy 20 west to the first stoplight and turn right on Veterans Memorial Circle.

The next SRCA Board meeting will be on April 25th, 4:00 p.m. at the Hamilton City Community Hall, 300 Broadway, Hamilton City.

The Landowner Assurances Committee meeting will be on May 21st, 1:30 p.m., Colusa Farm Bureau, Colusa.

❖ Frequently Asked Questions

Q What prompted the recent action by the Board to change the name of the nonprofit organization to the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum?

A The recent action to remove the outer boundary of the Conservation Area brought to light the perception by many stakeholders that the role or purpose of the SRCA was to convert that entire area to habitat. While some Board members were concerned that changing the name would be confusing to people, there was agreement that the name should better describe the role of the organization. The inclusion of the word “forum” was adopted to emphasize the role as an arena for discussion and coordination, where information is made available on existing or proposed projects along the river, and questions and concerns can be voiced. While it never was the intention to convert that area to habitat, that clearly was the perception and it needed to be addressed.

We have developed an interactive website for viewing and retrieving the various 2002 CALFED PSPs. The purpose of this site is to give all stakeholders an alternative method in accessing the CALFED 2002 Proposal Solicitation Packages (PSPs). You can access the site from the Sacramento River Conservation Area homepage. Just click on “Other Links” and then click the link for “CALFED 2002 PSP Access”. Please be patient when accessing the “CALFED 2002 PSP Access” site since it is data intensive. You can address questions, comments, or suggestions to John Lance (530) 528-7442 or email at jlance@water.ca.gov.